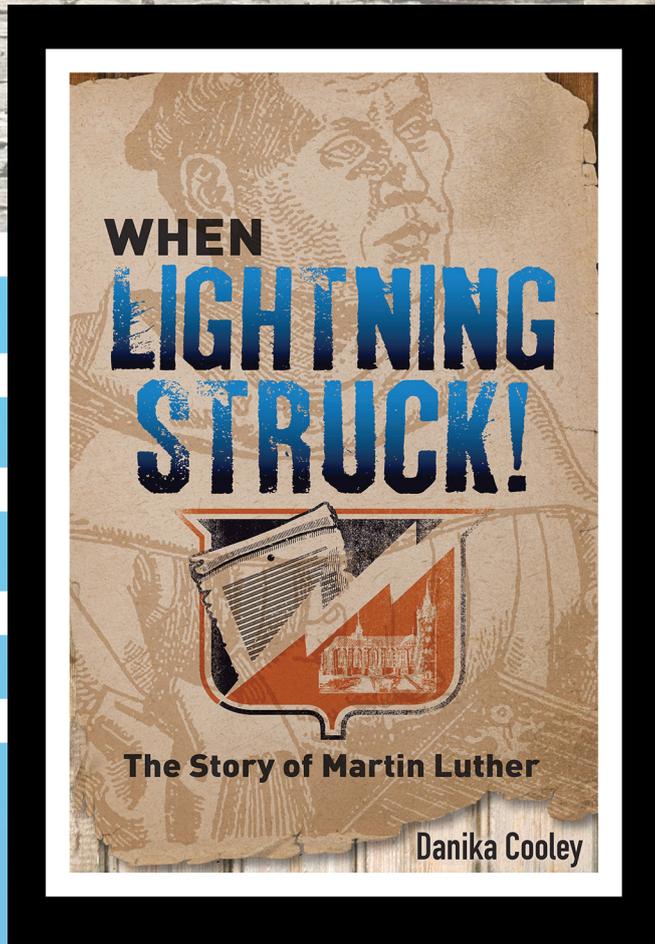
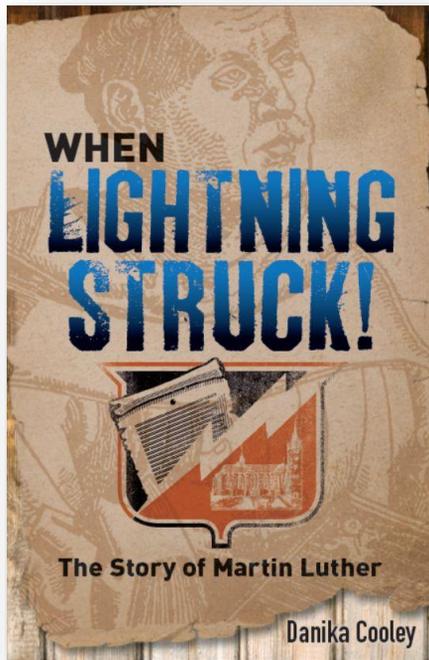


WHEN LIGHTNING STRUCK! THE STORY OF MARTIN LUTHER



DISCUSSION GUIDE

DANIKA COOLEY



Cobblestone Path ~ *When Lightning Struck! The Story of Martin Luther* Discussion Guide

Soli Deo Gloria

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For a complete list of resources consulted, please see the bibliography in *When Lightning Struck!*. Additional resources are cited where used.

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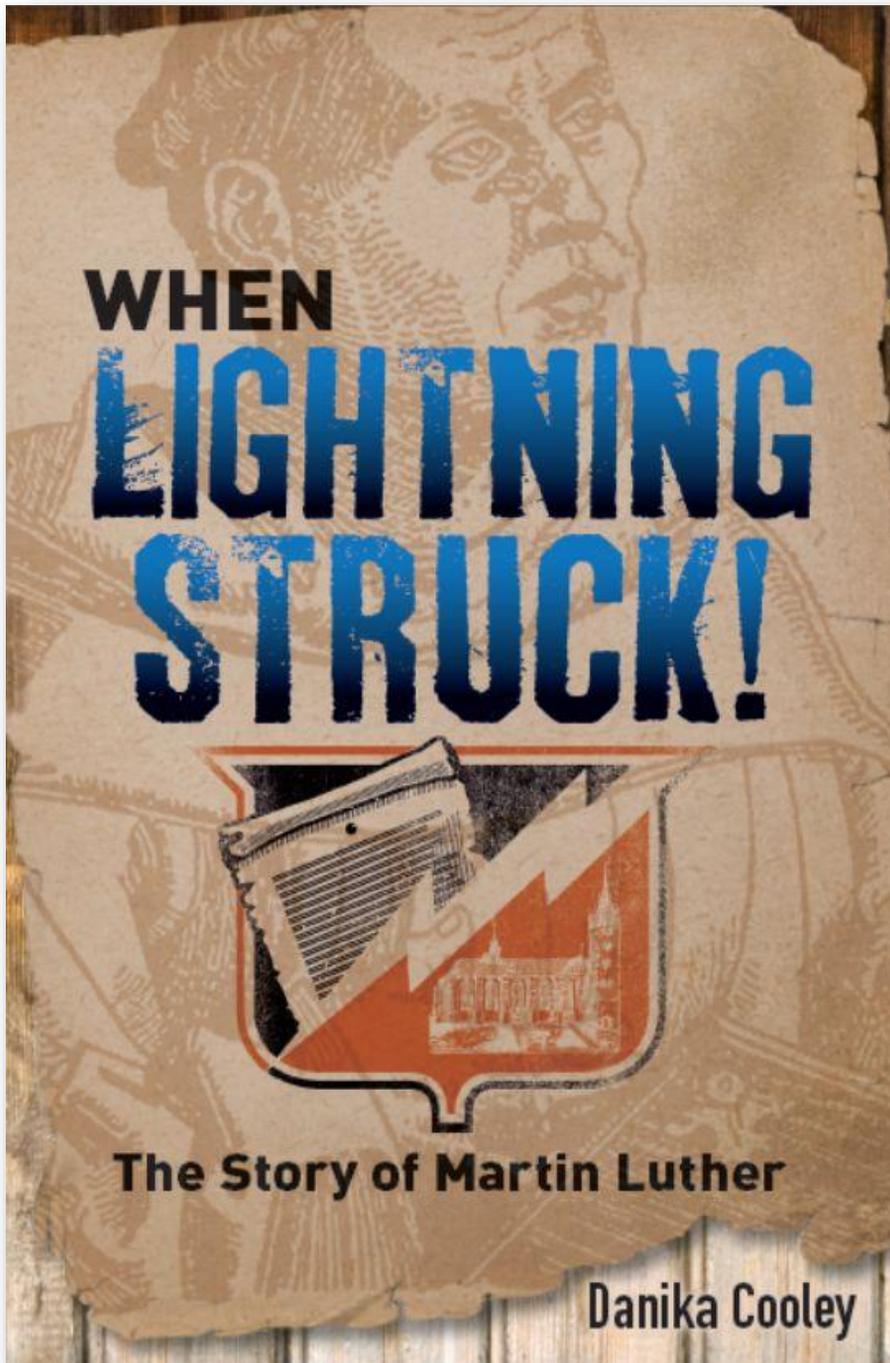
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When Lightning Struck!

The Story of Martin Luther



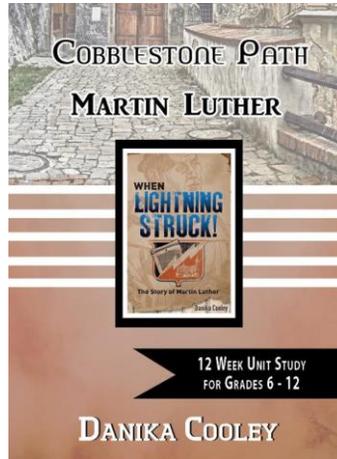
Discussion Guide

When Lightning Struck! ~ Discussion Guide

Cobblestone Path Church History materials are designed to aid youth in the study of Church history. This discussion guide is intended to help parents and leaders facilitate discussion of the book *When Lightning Struck! The Story of Martin Luther* (Fortress Press, 2015).

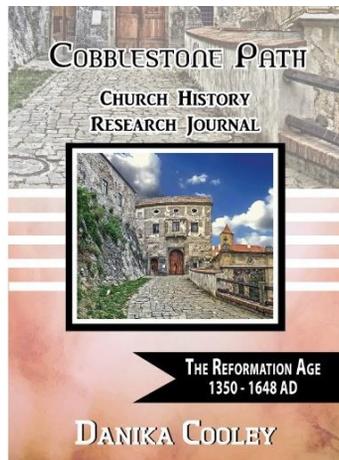
For each chapter, you will find discussion questions, a short biography on a figure related to the story of Martin Luther or Scripture passage to consider, and dates relating to that chapter. There are four timeline worksheets available at the end of this guide, which you may reprint and distribute to the students in your household, co-op, or youth group. Additionally, you may distribute pages of the guide.

Additional Resources for the Study of Martin Luther



Martin Luther Unit Study

Check out the twelve-week unit study available for *When Lightning Struck! The Story of Martin Luther*. The unit study includes related assignments in science, history, art, Scripture, writing and history. Available at ThinkingKidsPress.com, free to subscribers.



Cobblestone Path ~ The Reformation Age

Cobblestone Path Church History Research Journals are designed to provide a structured exploration of Church history for middle school and high school students. Students will develop research and pre-writing skills as they learn about the history of the Christian Church. For a more in-depth study of the Reformation in general, don't miss the Cobblestone Path Church History Research Journal ~ The Reformation Age. Available at ThinkingKidsPress.com.

Chapters One & Two ~ Thunderstorm! ~ July 2, 1505 & The Dark Before Dawn ~ 1483-1497

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Martin Luther questioning his career path?
2. When Martin's life was threatened, what thoughts did he have about God? Who did he appeal to for safety?
3. What did Margaretha Luther believe?
4. Why was Martin confused about asking the saints to pray for him?
5. What was Martin's schooling and home life like?
6. At the age of 13, what did Martin think about salvation? How did he think we get to heaven?

Johannes Gutenberg (c.1398-1468)

Johann Gutenberg died around fifteen years before Martin Luther was born, but the inventor's work impacted Martin greatly.

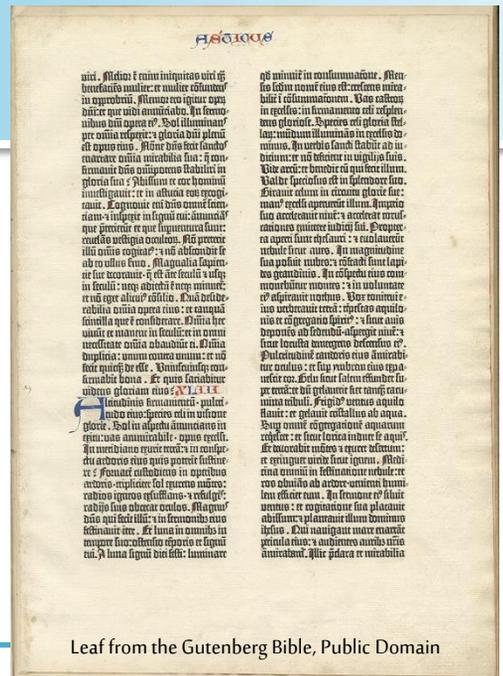
Gutenberg grew up in Germany, working with gold. In 1439, he developed a system for printing books with mechanical moveable type and oil-based ink. He borrowed money and in 1450, began the first European printing press (the Chinese had been printing since the 11th century—but Gutenberg didn't know that). In 1452, Gutenberg printed around 200 copies of the Bible in Latin from his shop in Mainz, Germany.

Unfortunately, Gutenberg was not able to repay the money he borrowed, and he lost his press, workshop, and half of his Bibles. The brilliant man died in poverty.

Gutenberg's invention allowed Martin Luther to spread his writings quickly, all over Europe. Without the printing press, the Reformation, Renaissance, and even the Scientific Revolution may not have occurred.

Timeline Dates

- November 10, 1483 ~ Martin Luther born in Eisleben
- 1484 ~ Luther family moves to Mansfeld
- 1492 ~ Christopher Columbus sails from Spain to the Americas
- 1492 ~ Martin Luther attends school in Mansfeld
- 1497 ~ Martin Luther attends school in Magdeburg
- July 2, 1505 ~ Martin is caught in a storm outside Stotternheim



Leaf from the Gutenberg Bible, Public Domain

Chapter Three ~ Begging for Bread ~ 1497-1502

Timeline Dates

1497-1498 ~ Vasco de Gama sails to India and back to Portugal

1498 ~ Martin attends school in Eisenach

1500 ~ Pedro Álvares Cabral claims Brazil for Portugal

1501 ~ Martin studies at the University of Erfurt

1502 ~ Martin earns a bachelor's degree

1502 ~ African slaves taken to the New World



Students Meeting at the Wartburg in October 1817

For 300th Anniversary of the Reformation, 1817, Anonymous, Public Domain

Scripture to Consider

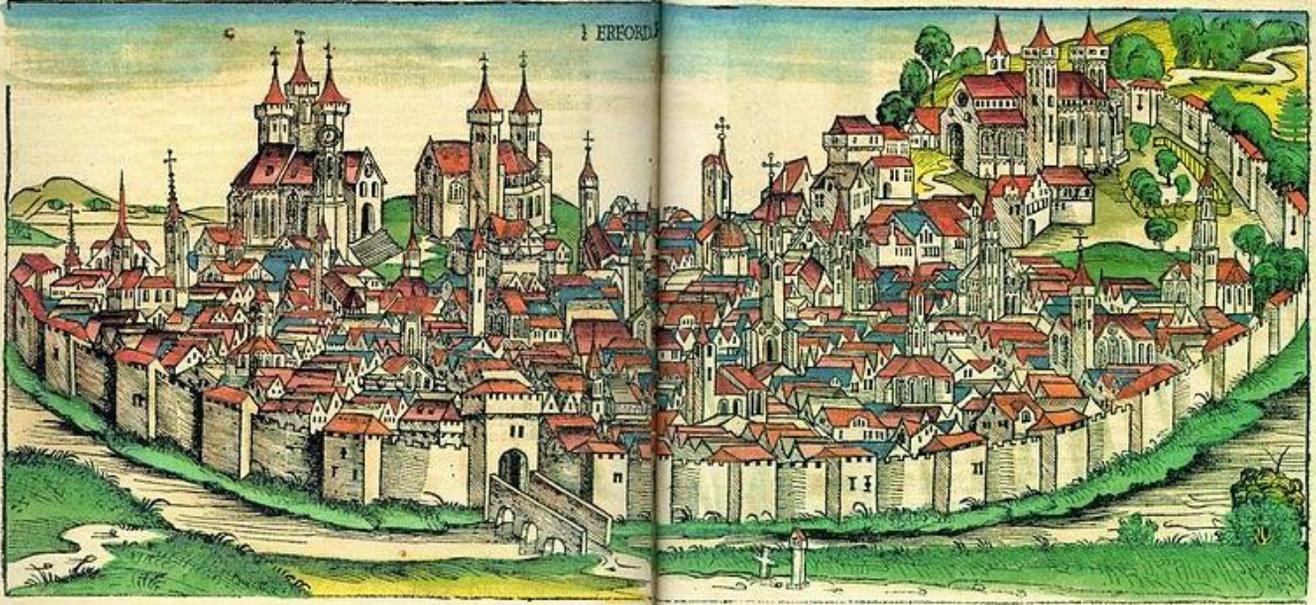
Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

1. Who should pray for others?
2. Who are we to pray to?
3. What does it mean to mediate?
4. Who mediates between God and men?
5. How many mediators are there?

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Prince William of Anhalt begging for bread?
2. How did Martin's encounter with the prince affect him?
3. How did Martin's first encounter with a Bible affect him?
4. Why hadn't Martin seen a Bible before?
5. How did Martin spend his personal time in Eisenach?
6. What do you think Martin was concerned about?

Chapter Four ~ The Edge of Death ~ 1503



Discussion Questions

1. How did Hieronymous describe Erfurt?
2. Why do you suppose there were so many priests, monks, and nuns in such a small city?
3. What was Martin concerned with?
4. When he was injured, who did Martin appeal to for help?

Timeline Date

April 16, 1503 ~ Martin is wounded
by his own sword

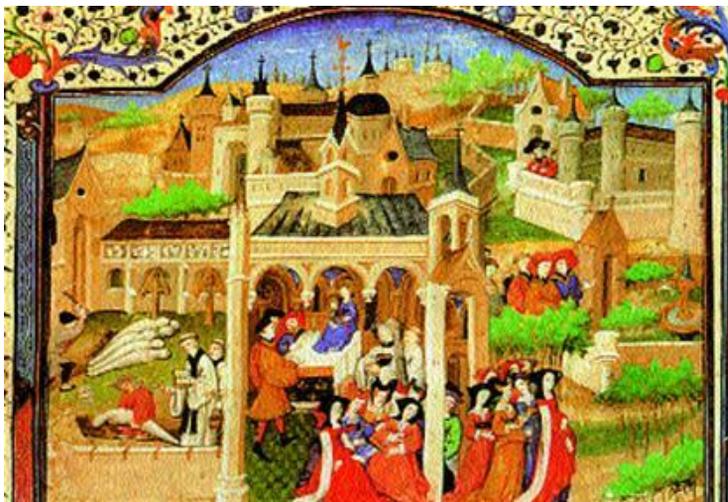
Erfurt, 1493
Nuremberg Chronicles, Public Domain

Hans (c.1459-1530) & Margaretha (1463-1531) Luther

Hans Luther was the oldest of four sons. Hans' father was likely a wealthy farmer, however, in Germany the family farm was inherited by the youngest son. Hans, an industrious man, began working in the dangerous copper mines. By the time Martin was around 8, Hans served on the Mansfeld city council. When Martin became a monk, Hans and his partner Dr. Dragstedt owned six mines and two copper smelters. Though he was dismayed at Martin's decision to become a monk, Hans was delighted when Martin married. Hans loved Martin, and the Reformer felt great affection for his father.

Margaretha Luther, also called Hanna by those who knew her, was the daughter of an educated family from the city of Eisenach. Margaretha was strict, superstitious, and frugal. Later in her life, Martin's friend Philipp Melanchthon once wrote that the elderly Margaretha was modest, reverent, and prayerful.

Chapter Five ~ The Black Death ~ 1503-1505



Plague, 15th C, Public Domain

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Martin concerned about finding a priest for his two roommates?
2. Why wouldn't Martin pray for Hieronymous?
3. How many times was Martin's life spared in 1503? Who do you think allowed him to live?
4. What benefit was there to being a lawyer? How did Martin feel about earning his Master's degree?
5. How did Martin's studies at Erfurt change his understanding of the world and of the Bible?

Scripture to Consider

Read: 2 Kings 19:8-20:11

1. What two impossible situations did King Hezekiah face?
2. Who did Hezekiah appeal to for help?
3. How did God affirm His sovereignty over nations in 2 Kings 19:25-28?
4. How is God shown sovereign over illness? How did God show He is sovereign over even the sun?

Timeline Dates

1503 ~ Black plague and typhoid fever come to Erfurt

1503-1506 ~ Leonardo da Vinci paints the Mona Lisa

1505 ~ First Muslim kingdom, Demak, founded in Java, Indonesia

February 1505 ~ Martin earns a master's degree from the University of Erfurt

May 1505 ~ Martin begins studying law

Chapter Six ~ A Ticket to Heaven ~ 1505-1507

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think was Martin's reasoning for suddenly becoming a monk?
2. How was the life of an Augustinian monk different than the life of a university student?
3. How did Hans Luther initially feel about Martin's decision to become a monk? Why did he change his mind?
4. Why did Martin sleep on the floor when he had a straw mattress available in his cell?
5. How do you think Martin felt about Jesus? Why did offering the Last Supper make him so nervous?

Timeline Dates

July 17, 1505 ~ Martin enters monastery

April 19-21, 1506 ~ Lisbon Massacre – 2,000 Jews converted to Catholicism killed in the Inquisition

1507 ~ Martin ordained as priest

Johann von Staupitz (c.1460-1524)

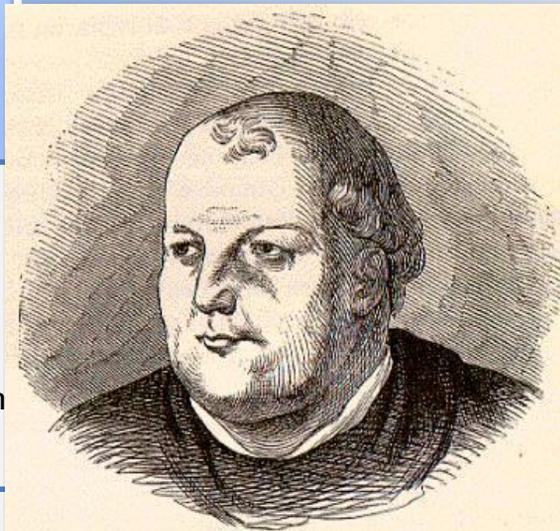
Johann von Staupitz played an influential role in the life of Martin Luther, as his superior, friend, and mentor.

Staupitz became a Doctor of Theology in 1500. He helped found the University of Wittenberg in 1502, becoming the Dean of Theology, and the head of the Augustinians the next year, shortly before Martin entered the order as a monk.

Staupitz helped Martin wrestle through his guilt and confusion over salvation. Martin once confessed his sins to Staupitz for over six hours!

In 1520, Staupitz resigned as the vicar-general of the Augustinians and two years later became a Benedictine abbot. He publicly agreed to follow the pope, siding with the Roman Catholic Church.

Martin wrote a letter in 1523 criticizing Staupitz. The abbot responded just before his death, telling Martin the Reformation had taken a wrong turn, destroying church unity. The Catholic Church later banned Staupitz' writings—he was just too close to Martin.



Johann von Staupitz, 1889

Luther's Leben by Julius Köstlin, Public Domain

Chapter Seven ~ The Stinking Sand Dune

of Thuringia

1507-1510



Wittenberg City View, c.1556,
Cranach Workshop, Public Domain

Timeline Dates

- April 1507-Winter 1508 ~ Martin teaches at the University of Erfurt
- Winter 1508-Fall 1509 ~ Martin teaches in Wittenberg
- Fall 1509-Winter 1509 ~ Martin teaches at Erfurt
- November 1510 ~ Martin leaves for Rome

Scripture to Consider

Read: 2 Timothy 3:12-17

& Hebrews 4:12-13

1. What will happen to those who desire to live for Christ?
2. What will occur with evil people and imposters?
3. What do the Scriptures make us wise for?
4. Where does Scripture come from?
5. How does the Bible shape us?

Discussion Questions

1. How did Martin see his service as a monk? How did Hans see it?
2. How did Martin approach confession?
3. How did Martin feel about receiving a Bible? Why was it special?
4. What did Martin study in his theology classes? What did he study in his free time?
5. How did Dr. Staupitz challenge Martin's view of God? Do you think Staupitz was right?
6. Why did Martin want to go to Rome?

Chapter Eight ~ O, Holy City ~ 1510-1511

Discussion Questions

1. It bothered Martin that the Italian monasteries were different from the German monasteries. What differences do you see in the way the two sets of monks lived?
2. What do you think about the manner in which the monks in Florence spoke of Girolamo Savonarola?
3. Do you think Savonarola was right to preach the way he did?
4. How do you feel about what Martin saw and experienced in Rome?
5. Does it seem that the Roman Church was living in a manner that glorified God?



Portrait of Girolamo Savonarola, 1497-1498
Fra Bartolomeo (1472-1517), Public Domain

Timeline Dates

- 1508-1512 ~ Michelangelo paints the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel
- January 1511 ~ Martin reaches Rome

Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498)

Girolamo Savonarola was born 31 years before Martin Luther in Ferrara, Italy. His father pushed him to become a doctor, but Savonarola worried about salvation. He became a monk, and eventually moved to Florence while it was under the rule of the mafia-like Lorenzo de' Medici, the father of the future Pope Leo X.

Savonarola's fiery preaching against sin and corruption in the church and the people stirred a moralistic reform in Florence. Citizens made amends for past sins and reformed their behavior. The sculptor Michelangelo attended many of Savonarola's sermons. In 1496, Savonarola and his boy helpers began throwing sinful art, literature, clothing, and gambling tools into the bonfires used for partying. Even Renaissance artist Botticelli burned some of his lewd paintings.

Savonarola was excommunicated for preaching against Church corruption the year before he was overthrown. The pope approved Savonarola's torture and execution. The monk was hung, and his body was burned.

Resource consulted: Girolamo Savonarola by Douglas Bond & Douglas McComas (EP Books, 2014)

Chapter Nine ~ Truth Reigns ~ 1511-1515

Discussion Questions



Image: Martin Luther at Erfurt, 1861
Joseph Noel Patton (1821-1901), Public Domain

1. What do you think of the different ideas Dr. Staupitz presented as ways to be saved? Do you feel he understood the gospel?
2. Do you think Dr. Staupitz' solution to Martin's confession that he hated God was a wise one?
3. Psalm 22 confused Martin. What do you think this psalm means? Why?
4. Dr. Polich von Mellerstadt felt Luther would confuse the other theologians. Do you think theologians and preachers should base their teachings on Scripture?
5. Who gives us faith? How does faith come to us? Why is this an act of God's mercy and grace?

Timeline Dates

- 1511 ~ Martin transfers to Wittenberg
- 1512 ~ Copernicus claims the sun is the center of the universe
- 1512 ~ Martin made a doctor of theology
- 1513 ~ Vasco Nuñez de Balboa reaches the Pacific
- 1513-1515 ~ Martin lectures on Psalms
- 1514 ~ Martin is saved!
- 1514-1517 ~ Ottoman Empire expands through Middle East, south-eastern Europe, and northern Africa

Scripture to Consider

Read: Psalm 22 & Romans 1:16-17

1. Who is Psalm 22 written about? How can you tell?
2. Why would the pain of this person be a cause of joy to the ends of the earth?
3. How are we saved, according to Romans?

Chapter Ten ~ The New Theology and A New Man

Discussion Questions

1. Martin's salvation affected his teaching. What do you think of the New Theology he preached?
2. Why do you think Martin's classes were so popular? Do you think they would be well-attended today?
3. What are your thoughts on relics? Do you think Martin was right to challenge Prince Frederick the Wise of Saxony on his relic collection?
4. Do you think it was wise for Martin to remain in Wittenberg through the plague? How would you have advised him?
5. What do you think of Martin's objections to indulgences? Were they well-founded?

Timeline Dates

- 1515-1516 ~ Martin lectures on the Psalms, becomes district-vicar in charge of 10-11 monasteries
- 1516 ~ Plague in Wittenberg
- 1516-1517 ~ Martin lectures on Galatians
- 1517 ~ Sweating sickness epidemic in England
- 1517-1518 ~ Martin preaches on Hebrews

1515-October, 1517

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)

Ulrich Zwingli was the head of the Swiss Reformation. Despite his earnest efforts to unite with Martin Luther, the men disagreed vehemently over the nature of the Lord's Supper.

Zwingli was born into a farming family in a Swiss valley. He attended the universities at Vienna and Basel before becoming a priest. Zwingli formed a close relationship with Desiderius Erasmus and twice served as a chaplain for the Swiss in battles against the French.

In 1519, Zwingli moved to Zurich and began to preach through the Bible verse-by-verse, which was unusual. He spoke against corruption in the Catholic Church and for marriage of priests and monks. He married six years later and had four children.

In 1525, Zwingli began to serve Reformed communion, an issue over which he and Martin never agreed. He died during an attack on Zurich by Catholic troops.

Resource consulted: Ulrich Zwingli by William Boekestein (EP Books, 2015)

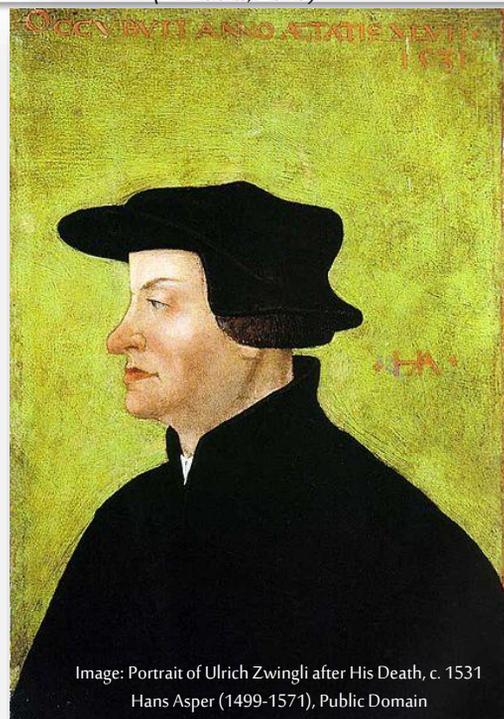


Image: Portrait of Ulrich Zwingli after His Death, c. 1531
Hans Asper (1499-1571), Public Domain

Chapter Eleven ~ The Breaking Point

October 30-31, 1517

Timeline Dates

October 31, 1517 ~ Martin posts the
Ninety-Five Theses



Image: Luther Posting the Ninety-Five Theses, 1872
Ferdinand Pauwels (1830-1904), Public Domain

Scripture to Consider

Read: Galatians 2:15-3:14

1. How are people saved—by works or by faith in Jesus?
2. Can we become righteous through the law?
3. Who are the “sons of Abraham”? What does that mean?
4. How did Christ redeem us from the curse of the law?
5. How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

Discussion Questions

1. The indulgences Johann Tetzel sold differed from the indulgences the Roman Catholic Church sold in the past. How do you think the change impacted sales?
2. Do you think Martin was justified in warning his congregants about either kind of indulgence?
3. How do you think Martin felt about Pope Leo X in 1517?
4. Was Martin right to present his objections in writing the way he did?
5. What do you think were some of Martin’s best arguments against indulgences?
6. Do you think Martin was wise to write a letter to Archbishop Albert?

Chapter Twelve ~ Fallout!

November 1517 – October 1518

Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Martin intended to have his *Ninety-Five Theses* be used?
2. What do you think about how Martin responded to Johann Tetzel's written rebuttal of the *Ninety-Five Theses*?
3. Why do you think the people of Germany respond enthusiastically to the *Theses*?
4. Do you think Martin was wise to appeal to Prince Frederick when Pope Leo X summoned him to Rome?
5. How do you feel Martin handled the trial with Cardinal Cajetan? Should he have responded differently?
6. Who do you think is the authority for our lives? Do you agree with Martin or with Cajetan?



Image: Pope Leo X with his cousins, Cardinals Giulio de' Medici and Luigi de' Rossi 1518-1519, Raphael (1483-1520), Public Domain

Scripture to Consider

Read: Colossians 1:15-23

1. Who controls all things in heaven and on earth?
2. Who is the head of the church?

Pope Leo X (1475-1521)

Born Giovanni de' Medici, Pope Leo X was the son of the wealthy Lorenzo de' Medici of Florence. Leo X was made Abbot of a monastery at the age of 10, a cardinal at 13, and was pope by age 37.

Leo X lived a decadent lifestyle, spending 1/7 of the papal treasury on his coronation in 1513. He loved parties, feasting, art, gambling, and buildings. Leo always had a clown with him and went hunting with hundreds, perhaps thousands of people.

To pay for his lifestyle, Leo sold church offices, knighthoods, and indulgences. He spent all the money he made and left the papacy in debt when he died.

Timeline Dates

November 1517 ~ *Theses* reprinted and spread through Europe in 14 weeks

1518-1521 ~ Martin preaches on Psalms again

April 1518 ~ Heidelberg Disputation

May 1518 ~ Martin stands trial at Augsburg before Cardinal Cajetan

Chapter Thirteen ~

Image: Jan Hus in the Council of Constance
1883, Václav Brožík (1851-1901)
Public Domain



Contest in Leipzig

October 20, 1518 – July 1519

Jan Hus (1369-1415)

Jan Hus was born more than a hundred years before the birth of Martin Luther, but his work and writings were an important beginning in the Reformation of the Church.

Hus was a priest and professor at Charles University in Prague. He began to openly speak against the moral abuses of the papacy and priests in 1405, and perhaps a year later was introduced to the writings of John Wycliffe, an English theologian who spoke against Church abuses and translated the Bible from Latin into English.

By 1410, the pope ordered all Wycliffe books burned. Hus protested and continued to preach.

Peasants throughout Prague sided with Hus, causing riots. Three peasants were beheaded after speaking against indulgences.

Hus was tried at the Council of Constance and burned at the stake. By the time Martin nailed the *Theses* to the door of the Wittenburg Church, 9 out of every 10 Czechs no longer followed the papacy. Today, Hus' teachings still influence believers in that part of the world.

*Resources consulted: John Huss – Theopedia.com
& Jan Hus - Wikipedia.org*

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been in really big trouble for doing what you felt was right morally? Did anyone stand up for you?
2. How would you react if you expected to die for your faith? How would you feel if someone protected you like Frederick protected Martin?
3. How do you feel about the pope's actions? Do you think artists and printers responded appropriately to the New Theology?
4. The common man's view of salvation was changing in Germany. Can you remember a time that your understanding of the gospel changed?
5. Have you ever had to defend your beliefs in public? How did that make you feel?
6. What are your beliefs based on? Are they worth dying for?

Timeline Dates

Late 1518 ~ Martin plans to flee to Rome

June 1519 ~ Charles V becomes Holy Roman Emperor at 19

June 1519 ~ Leipzig Debate

July 1519 ~ Martin released from vows as a monk

Chapter Fourteen ~ War of Words

August 1519 – December 1520

Discussion Questions

1. Have your words or ideas ever spread further than you thought they would?
2. How do you feel about Martin's *Address to the Christian Nobility*? Should he have asked political leaders for help?
3. Would you be afraid of hell if you were excommunicated like Martin was? How would you react?
4. How do you feel about Martin's arguments in *Babylonian Captivity of the Church* and *On the Freedom of a Christian*?
5. What do you feel the argument between Martin and the Roman Church was really about?

Timeline Dates

1519-1522 ~ Magellan circles the earth

1520 ~ Martin writes *To the Christian Nobility*, *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, and *The Freedom of a Christian*

October 1520 ~ Martin receives bull of excommunication and is given 60 days to recant

December 1520 ~ Martin burns the bull and canon law

Scripture to Consider

Read: Romans 8

1. What hope do you find in this chapter?
2. What does it mean to be in the Spirit rather than the flesh?
3. What hope do we have when facing suffering?
4. What can separate a believer from the love of Christ?



Image: Luther at Worms, 1557
Anonymous, Public Domain

Chapter Fifteen ~ Welcome to Worms

January 1521-May 1521

Scripture to Consider

Read: Colossians 2:6-15

1. How are we to live for Christ?
2. What must we watch out for?
3. How are believers made alive?



Image: Philipp Melanchthon
Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553), Public Domain

Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560)

Philipp Melanchthon was a gentle and patient man. He and Martin were close partners in the Reformation, working together for nearly 30 years.

Orphaned at the age of 10, Melanchthon lived with a grandmother for two years before attending a university at the age of 12. He began his graduate studies at 16, learning under Desiderius Erasmus. Melanchthon joined Martin on the faculty of the University of Wittenberg in 1518 at the age of 21.

Melanchthon questioned the traditions of the Roman Church, and wanted to see reform within the Church. Even so, he was deeply superstitious, refusing to act without first consulting astrological signs.

As a Greek scholar, Melanchthon was a genius, well-liked by his students. He helped write the Augsburg Confession, which clearly showed how the Lutheran Church differed from the Catholic Church.

Melanchthon married in 1529. He was a committed father, rocking the cradle with one hand while studying a book with the other.

Timeline Dates

1519-1521 ~ Hernán Cortés conquers Mexico

January 3, 1521 ~ Martin excommunicated

April 17-18, 1521 ~ Martin tried at Diet of Worms

May 1521 ~ Martin declared a heretic and outlaw

May 3, 1521 ~ Martin is kidnapped

Discussion Questions

1. If you were in Martin's shoes, would you go to Worms?
2. How would you feel if you showed up in a scene like Martin encountered?
3. Have you ever written something that was important to you? How would you feel if you had to stand trial for it?
4. Have you ever taken a stand for what you know to be right based on your conscience? Was it difficult? Do you think it was the right decision?
5. How would you have reacted to Martin's final statement if you had been in Worms that day?

Chapter Sixteen ~ Kidnapped!

May 1521 – Spring 1522

Discussion Questions

1. When you have time alone, how do you spend it? Do your activities glorify God?
2. Martin's teachings changed while he was at the Wartburg, and society changed as well. How have you seen ideas radically change society during your lifetime?
3. Do you think it matters whether ideas are based on the Bible?
4. What did the Zwickau Prophets teach? Do you see these beliefs today? How do you feel about those kinds of teachings?
5. If you were in Martin's position, would you have returned to Wittenberg? Would you stay in hiding, or would you risk your life to lead the Reformation?

Andreas Karlstadt (1486-1541)

Andreas Karlstadt, a scholar, was the Chancellor of Wittenberg University when Martin arrived. When Martin earned his doctorate in 1512, Karlstadt awarded it to him.

Karlstadt was a fiery teacher, eager for sweeping reform, and impatient at the rate the Reformation progressed. His relationship with Martin was rocky.

While Martin hid at Wartburg Castle, Karlstadt began to teach more forcefully. He pushed for priests, and later monks, to marry and have families. Karlstadt himself married a 15 year old girl during that time.

Karlstadt and Gabriel Zwilling continued to push for greater reform, stirring up riots and forcing change.

When Martin returned from the Wartburg, he publicly rebuked Karlstadt, which the scholar resented. Karlstadt left nearly immediately, pastoring and teaching Hebrew at Orlamünde, and later at Basel.

Timeline Dates

- May 1521-March 1522 ~ Martin hides at the Wartburg Castle
- 1521-1522 ~ Martin translates the New Testament, writes commentaries, letters, and books
- December 1521 ~ Martin visits Wittenberg



Image: Luther in Worms, 1877

Anton von Werner (1843-1915), Public Domain

Chapter Seventeen ~ The Knight Returns

Spring 1522-Spring 1523

Discussion Questions

1. Martin objected to forcing people to change. How do people react to new rules?
2. Is outward change easier for you when your heart changes first?
3. Johannes Bugenhagen and Fabricius Capito both came to Christ after hearing the gospel. Has God changed your heart through the gospel? Have you asked Him to?
4. The Reformation was spreading and the gospel was changing Europe. Have you ever seen someone's life change as a result of the gospel?
5. Would you risk your life to free someone like Leonhard Koppe did? Would you risk your life to leave the convent if you were a nun?



Image: Bauernhaufen 1525
Rudolph Shiestl (1878-1931), Public Domain

Scripture to Consider

Read: Hebrews 11:1-12:2

1. How is faith defined?
2. How did the people of the Bible act in faith? What was promised to them? When will they receive the promises of God—here or in eternity?
3. How should we live our lives? What should our focus be?

Timeline Dates

March 1522 ~ Martin returns to Wittenberg

1522-1523 ~ Reformation spreads through Germany; and to Basel, Switzerland; and Strasbourg, France

Spring 1523 ~ Katharina von Bora arrives in Wittenberg

Chapter Eighteen ~ War and a Wedding

Spring 1523-July 1525

Discussion Questions

1. Does knowing the story of Martin Luther change the way you think about a pastor's job?
2. Does seeing the results of anger in Martin's life cause you to view anger in your own life any differently?
3. After learning a little about the German Peasants' War, will you think of the poor any differently?
4. Is there something you can do to help those who are less fortunate?
5. How do you feel about Martin's reaction to the peasant revolt?
6. Does Martin's marriage to Katie change the way you view marriage in any way?

Timeline Dates

- 1521-1524 ~ More pamphlets published in Germany than in any other 4 year German period
- 1523 ~ First two Protestant martyrs in the Netherlands
- 1524-1525 ~ German Peasants' War
- Late 1524-Early 1525 ~ Martin writes 20+ hymns
- June 1525 ~ Martin marries Katie

Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)

Erasmus was born in the Netherlands. He spent his life as a Catholic priest and theologian who believed in studying the early church fathers and the Bible. He also taught that the Psalms should be memorized and recited daily. Erasmus taught himself Greek, revised the Latin edition of the New Testament, and translated it into Greek.

As a preacher, Erasmus mocked and boldly attacked churchmen and commoners in any area he felt they displayed ignorance or superstitions. Erasmus was opposed to Church corruption and the worship of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Even so, Erasmus disapproved of the Reformation. He felt the Roman Church should be changed from within. Martin was greatly disappointed with Erasmus on this point.



Image: Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam, 1523
Hans Holbein the Younger (1498-1543), Public Domain

Chapter Nineteen ~ Our God Reigns

July 1525-December 1527

Timeline Dates

December 1525 ~ Martin writes

On the Bondage of the Will

1526 ~ Martin converts Mass from Latin to German

June 1526 ~ Hans Luther is born

1527 ~ Reformation spreads to Sweden

July 1527 ~ Martin is seriously ill

August-November 1527~ Plague in Wittenberg

Late 1527 ~ Katie is seriously ill

Late 1527 ~ Martin writes "A Mighty Fortress"

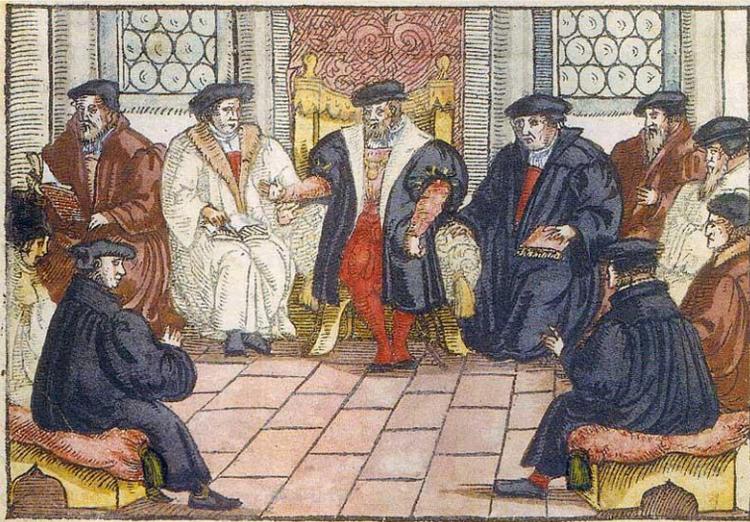


Image: Religious Colloquy of Marburg
1557, Public Domain

Scripture to Consider

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Describe our state prior to salvation.
2. How are we saved? Is it by our own doing?
3. What does our salvation tell us about God? How does Paul describe Him here?
4. How are we to live once we are saved?

Discussion Questions

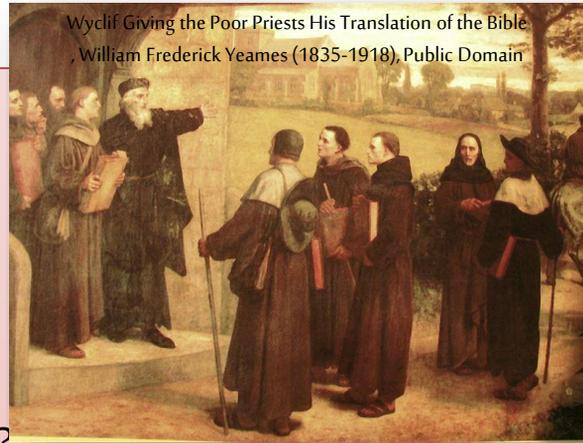
1. Does Martin's description of the will in *On the Bondage of the Will* change your understanding of salvation at all?
2. What do you think of the way Katie dealt with Martin's ideas? Does the way they treated each other change how you look at marriage?
3. Do you feel any differently about risking for the good of others when you read about Katie and Martin remaining in Wittenberg through the plague?
4. How does Martin's hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" impact your understanding of God's care for you?

Chapter Twenty ~ But What Shall We Teach?

December 1527-1529

Discussion Questions

1. Martin has a team of students recording his thoughts. Can you think of any modern day situations where that occurs? Do you feel it's important to be careful what you say and write in public?
2. Martin and Katie had extra children, aunts, students, and visitors living and dining with them their entire marriage. Does their lifestyle impact the way you understand Christian hospitality?
3. How does Martin's commitment to children and education affect your understanding of the importance of knowing God's Word and the basic doctrines of our faith?
4. Can you help fight against biblical illiteracy and theological ignorance?
5. How does the disagreement between the theologians Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Johannes Oecolampadius, Martin Bucer, and Fabricius Capito impact your opinion of how we interpret Scripture and maintain unity?



Timeline Dates

December 1527 ~ Elizabeth Luther born

August 1528 ~ Elizabeth dies
1528 ~ Reformation spreads to Scotland

October 1528 ~ Marburg Colloquy

April-May 1529 ~ Martin writes
Large Catechism and *Small Catechism*

May 1529 ~ Magdalena Luther born

William Tyndale (c.1494-1536)

William Tyndale was an English scholar who translated the Bible into English from the Hebrew and Greek languages at the risk of his life. He attended Oxford and Cambridge, studying theology and working as a private tutor.

Tyndale was dismayed by the biblical illiteracy of priests. English translations were banned, so he travelled throughout Europe, perhaps visiting Martin in 1524 and translating the Bible in Germany. He worked to have his translation printed in spite of raids and threats, smuggling copies into England and Scotland. In 1535, Tyndale was betrayed by a friend. He was strangled and burnt at the stake as a heretic. His translation was later used as the base of the King James Version.

Chapter Twenty-One ~ And the Truth Goes

Marching On ~ 1530-1536



Discussion Questions

1. Martin Luther found the translation of the Old Testament difficult. Are you willing to do hard things to glorify God?
2. Martin was unable to attend the Augsburg Confession, yet he supported it by working nearby. Are you willing to allow others to carry out a ministry vision you have—even if you get no credit for it?
3. The political situation in Germany helped protect the Protestant Church. When have you seen rulers harm Christians? Does it make sense to pray for our leaders?
4. Martin, Bucer, and Capito didn't agree on the Eucharist or the Lord's Supper, but they were able to part in peace. How can you seek to be at peace with other believers over lesser doctrinal issues? At what point is it

necessary to break fellowship over a doctrinal disagreement?

Timeline Dates

1530 ~ Augsburg Confession - Martin translates

Psalms and prophetic books from Coburg Castle

1531-1532 ~ Church of England forms

1532 ~ Francisco Pizarro conquers the Inca Empire

1532 ~ Reformation spreads through France

June 1533 ~ Paul Luther is born

1534 ~ Margaret Luther is born

1535 ~ Radical Anabaptists fight in Münster Rebellion

1536 ~ Reformation spreads to Denmark and Norway

May 1536 ~ Martin meets with Bucer and Capito
over Eucharist

October 1536 ~ William Tyndale martyred

Scripture to Consider Read: Romans 12

1. How do we live as a sacrifice to God?
2. How should we think of ourselves? How should we consider others?
3. How does a Christian respond to an enemy?

Chapter Twenty-Two ~ Table Talks in the Black

Discussion Questions

1. The articles Martin submitted to the Schmalkaldic League for approval outlined the biblical teachings Protestant pastors should hold to. In your adult life, will you choose your future pastors based on the biblical accuracy of their teaching?
2. Joel Rosheim was concerned for the Jewish people. How can you reach those who don't understand the truth of the gospel?
3. What do you think of Martin's writings against other people groups—the peasants, the Jews, and the Anabaptists? How will you treat those you disagree with—either doctrinally or ideologically?

Cloister ~ 1537-1542

Katharina von Bora (1499-1552)

Katharina von Bora was born poor in a small village near Leipzig. Katie lost her mother at age 5, and her father committed her to a convent at the age of 10 when he remarried. Like many of the nuns at her time, Katie didn't have a choice in the matter.

The convent Katie lived in until she was 24 required silence, forbid friendships, and allowed relatives to visit only by speaking through a barred window with a supervisor present. Katie's aunt, who would later care for Martin and Katie's children, was the Abbess of the convent.

We don't know how Katie and the other nuns heard of Martin's teachings, or how they managed to send him a letter. We do know they risked their lives to escape.

Katie proved to be a capable wife, managing a large household, a farm, and Martin himself. Katie loved Martin dearly and fussed over him.



Image: Katharina von Bora, 1528

Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553), Public Domain

Timeline Dates

- February 1537 ~ Martin writes Schmalkaldic Articles to instruct the church how to teach following his death
- 1537 ~ Tyndale's partial Bible translation published in English
- 1538 ~ Martin writes against Jews
- 1539 ~ Hernando de Soto explores inland America
- 1541 ~ Francisco de Orellana explores the Amazon River

Chapter Twenty-Three ~ Twilight and a Cake

September, 1542 – February 18, 1546

Scripture to Consider

Read: John 3:16-21

1. Why did God send his Son into the world?
2. What is the sentence for anyone who does not believe in Jesus? What assurance do we have if we believe in Jesus?
3. Who is the light? Why will those who follow Christ come to the light?
4. How are our works carried out?

Martin Luther and the Wittenberg Reformers (Detail)
c.1543, Lucas Cranach the Younger (1515-1586)
Public Domain



Timeline Dates

September 1542 ~ Magdalena dies

1543 ~ Martin writes against Jews

1543 ~ Copernicus writes that planets revolve around sun

1545-1563 ~ 25 sessions of the Council of Trent

November 10, 1545 ~ Martin's 62nd birthday party

November 11, 1545 ~ Martin's last sermon

February 18, 1546 ~ Martin Luther dies

Discussion Questions

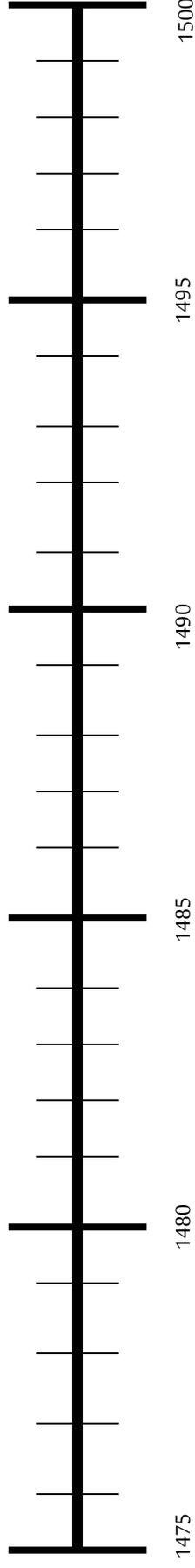
1. Do you understand the biblical gospel well enough to explain it to a pastor, elder, or parent? Can you express the gospel in under a minute, and again in five minutes? Do you think the gospel message is worthy of practice?
2. How will you choose to live in the world? Will you seek the approval of God or men? Do you think it's right for a Christian to isolate permanently?
3. Martin was remorseful about his anger. Is there a sin in your life you need to seek the Lord about?
4. In death, Martin focused on what he sought in life. Where will your focus be in your final moments? Are there any changes you need to make now?



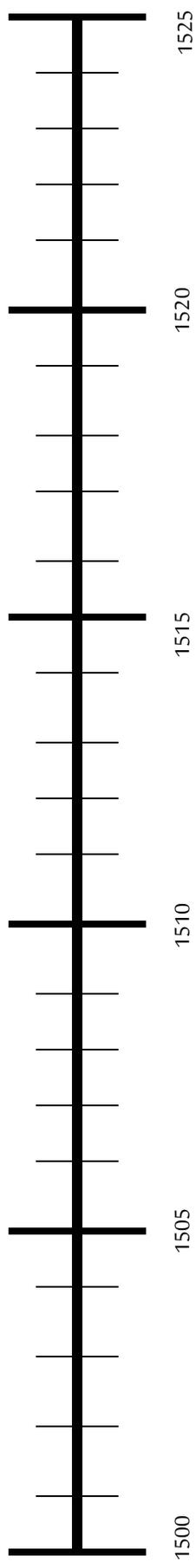
Timeline

1475-1575 Anno Domini

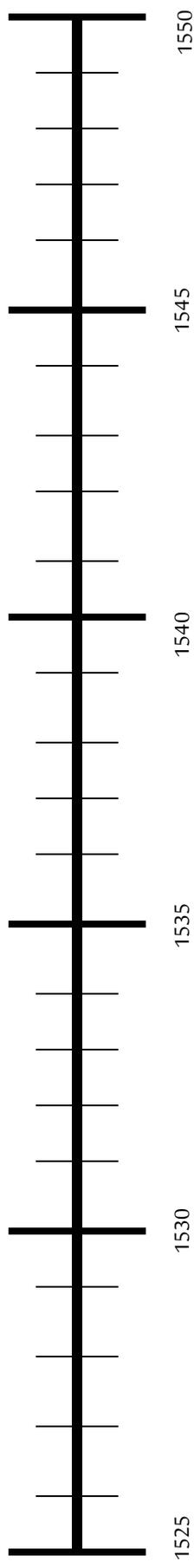
1475-1500 Anno Domini ~ In the Year of Our Lord



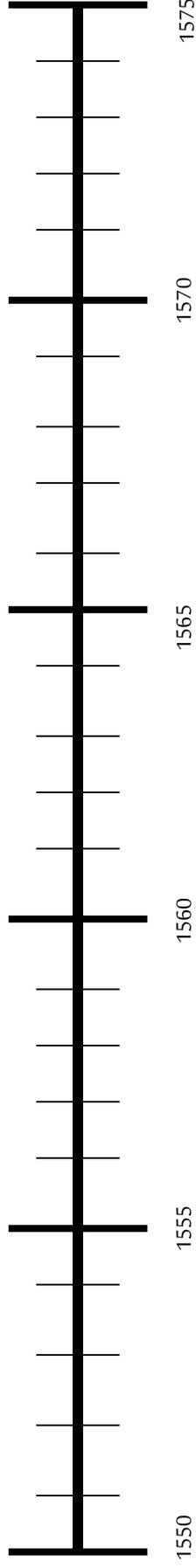
1500-1525 Anno Domini ~ In the Year of Our Lord



1525-1550 Anno Domini ~ In the Year of Our Lord



1550-1575 Anno Domini ~ In the Year of Our Lord

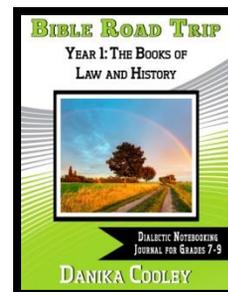
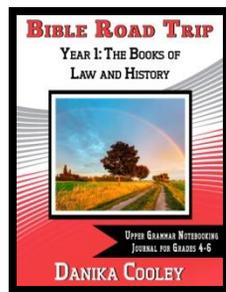
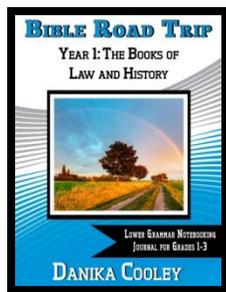
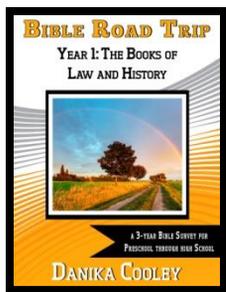


Bible Road Trip

Bible Road Trip is a three-year Bible survey curriculum for preschool to high school. Designed to allow the entire family to study God's Word together, Bible Road Trip includes global prayer focuses, Scripture memory, crafts and research projects, in-depth study about the Bible, Scripture reading, discussion questions, notebooking journals, and suggestions for related media and literature.

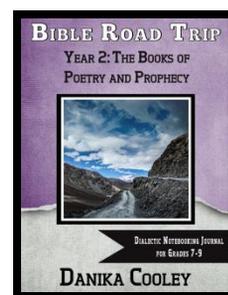
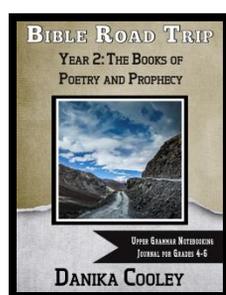
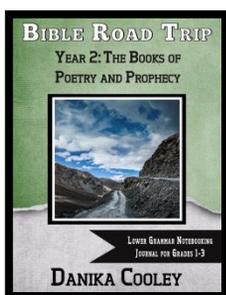
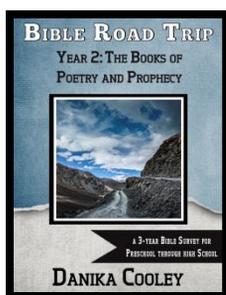
Bible Road Trip Year One ~ Curriculum and Notebooking Journals

Year One covers the Books of Law and History in the Old Testament. Students will study the Bible from Genesis to Esther in 32 weeks.



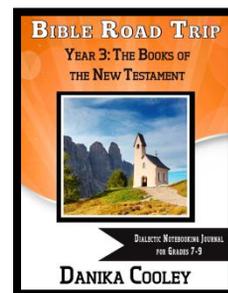
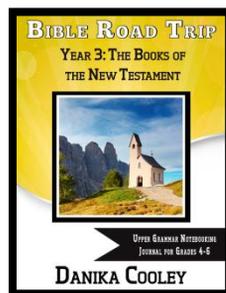
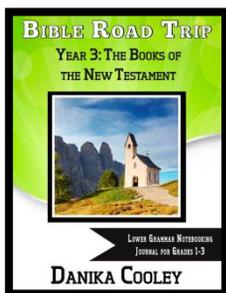
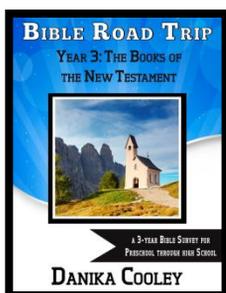
Bible Road Trip Year Two ~ Curriculum and Notebooking Journals

Year Two covers the Books of Poetry and Prophecy in the Old Testament. Students will study the Bible from Job to Malachi in 32 weeks.



Bible Road Trip Year Three ~ Curriculum and Notebooking Journals

Year Three covers the Books of the New Testament. Students will study the Bible from Matthew to Revelation in 32 weeks.

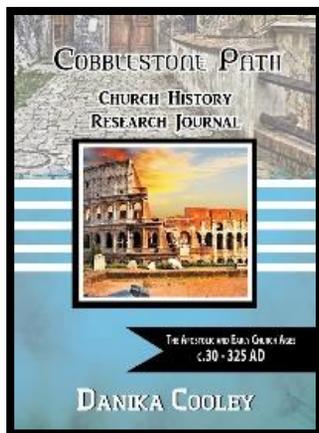


Additional Materials from Thinking Kids Press

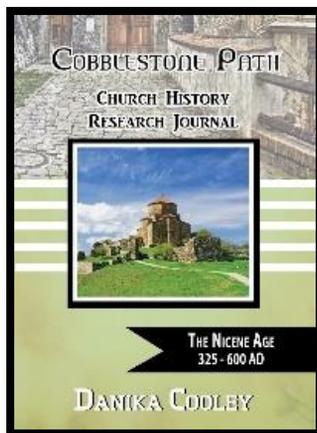
Cobblestone Path ~ Church History Research Journals

Cobblestone Path Church History Research Journals are designed to provide a structured exploration of Church history for Middle School and High School students. Students will develop research and pre-writing skills as they learn about the history of the Christian Church.

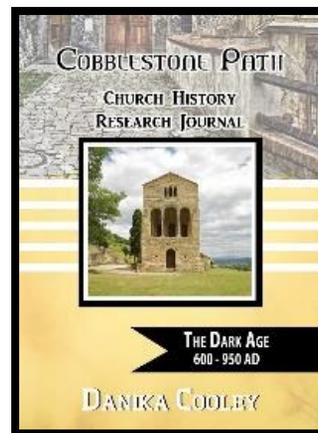
Cobblestone Path ~ The Apostolic and Early Church Ages ~ c.30-325 AD



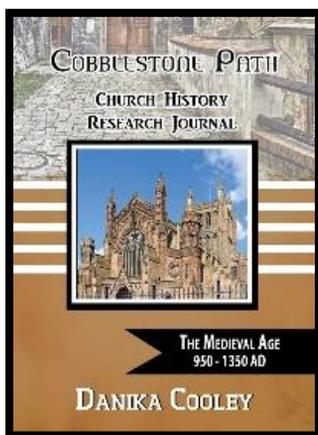
The Apostolic & Early Church Ages
c.30-325 AD



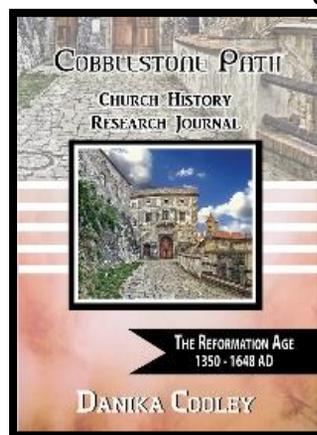
The Nicene Age
325-600 AD



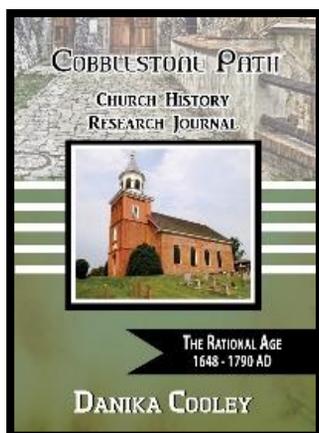
The Dark Age
600-950 AD



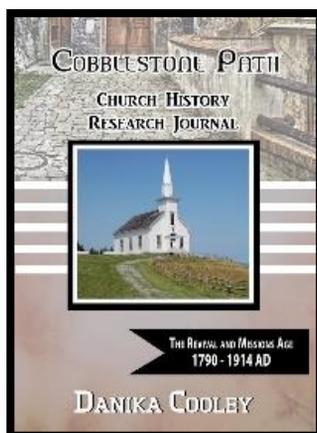
The Medieval Age
950-1350 AD



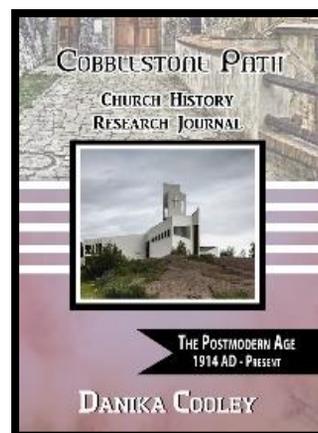
The Reformation Age
1350-1648 AD



The Rational Age
1648-1790 AD



The Revival and Missions Age
1790-1914 AD



The Postmodern Age
1914-Present AD

COBBLESTONE PATH

CHURCH HISTORY

Cobblestone Path research projects for middle and high school students provide an opportunity to really dig into the history and theology of the Christian Church. Why *Cobblestone Path*? The road through the history of our Christian family is comprised of the lives of many different saints—and a few scoundrels. It's a road both rocky and smooth. You're about to trek the *Cobblestone Path*. If you love Jesus, you're a traveler in this journey, but your life is also a stone in the road!

MARTIN LUTHER

is often called “The Father of the Reformation”. His dedication to the principles of Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, and God’s Glory Alone led to the teaching of “New Theology”—theology from the Bible—and the formation of the Protestant Church. Explore the life of Martin Luther, the people in his life, and the times he lived in with discussion based on the narrative biography *When Lightning Struck! The Story of Martin Luther*.



DISCUSSION GUIDE

DANIKA COOLEY

Design by MelindaMartin.me

Danika Cooley is the author of *When Lightning Struck! The Story of Martin Luther* (Fortress,



2015), *Wonderfully Made* (CF4K, 2016), *Bible Road Trip* and *Cobblestone Path*. She’s also a wife, mother of four, and homeschool mom.

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